

Southwest Pioneer

June 2016

grovecityhistory@gmail.com

Southwest Franklin County Historical Society
3378-B Park St., Grove City, OH 43123

Sesquicentennial Celebration

Heritage Event Is June 4-5 At Village

Grove City is celebrating 150 years of self-government this year and the pinnacle event is June 4-5 as part of Heritage Days at Century Village.

The City of Grove City and the Southwest Franklin County Historical Society are working together to make this a special day for all Grove City residents.

A few volunteer positions are still open and Society members who can help in this special event are encouraged to call Linda Lewis at 871-5247.

Read more about the Sesquicentennial inside the June newsletter. *See page 5*

1817 Letter Promotes Area

Most people living in Jackson Township feel it is a quality place to live, but how did people feel in the early 1800s? The following quotes are from an 1817 letter:

"Property sells for a very reasonable rate. Carpenters do work by the piece; journeymen's wages one dollar per day and board; bricklayers four dollars per thousand including lime, sand and help."

Another reads: "Land unimproved from one dollar to four-fifty per acre; improved, eight to sixteen dollars."

"Two-thirds of the land in this section will average 30 bushels of wheat to the acre; however, the risk of transportation to markets exceeds the cost of carriage."



The Park Street School bell at the museum is now housed in a replica bell tower constructed by Roger Burkett. A portion of the tower is unloaded before it was moved inside the building.

New Tower Is Home To Park Street Bell

A long awaited addition to the Grove City Welcome Center and Museum is now on display.

The bell tower was constructed by Roger Burkett.

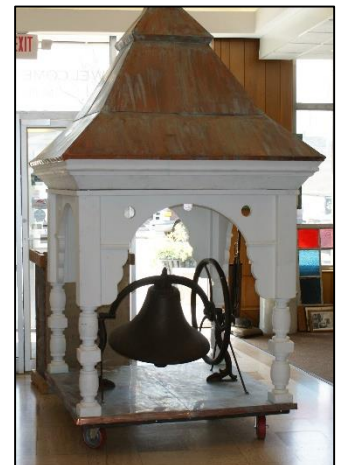
It was an important component of the old brick school building that once sat at Park Street and Arbutus Avenue. Built in 1853, it was torn down in 1964.

The museum also showcases the stained glass leaded window that was located below the bell tower.



The tower was fabricated with wood and steel using old photographs of the school building to create the appropriate design. Burkett also completed all the copper work including a patina to give the copper an aging appearance.

The museum is open weekdays 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and on Tuesday the museum is open until 8 p.m. The museum is open Saturday hours from 8-11 a.m. *Related story on Page 3*



Old Phonograph, Record Player Now On Museum Display

Society members who are interested in stepping back in time are in for a treat at the museum.

Thanks to the efforts of museum employee Don Ivers, the museum has an antique Edison Standard Cylinder Photograph made by the National Photograph Company in Orange, NJ.

Better yet, the unit still plays but must be operated only by a museum employee. A variety of cylinders are available.



Another antique Ivers has secured is a cabinet style radio from the 1930s and 1940s. It was donated by Tony Mongenas of Cincinnati.

These were the radios families would gather around to listen to such programs as Burns and Allen, Amos and Andy, Benny Goodman and Tennessee Ernie Ford.



This was also the type of radio families gathered to hear the Fireside Chats from the White House delivered by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

This is a great opportunity to relive past years and to show children what the world was like before cellular telephones that now operate like computers and an endless stream of music.

Parks, Recreation Moves

Grove City Parks and Recreation is now located in the Jackson Building, 3226 Kingston Ave.

The move was completed in April and the new offices provide additional office space and room for special activities. The phone number, 614-277-3050, didn't change.



Many of the old photographs of Grove City enjoyed today are from the photo collection of Virgil K. Bethard. Virgil, right, is pictured with childhood friend, Earl Miller. The two boys are standing on the running board of Kenneth Gunderman's Model T Ford. The photo was taken around 1914 or 1915. It is part of Bethard photo collection.

Comments, Corrections

Tim Eyerman of El Paso, Texas remembered a little more about the man named "Scottie" who recovered mail bags at the railroad station. His comments:

"I think the Scottie referred to in that section about the RR Station was Clyde Scott. I remember watching the mail bags being deployed and recovered.

"Once in a while there was a foul up and the train hit the bags and some of the mail would be damaged. For pick up the mail bag was deployed on an arm that was located right next to the tracks and was recovered with a hook as the train sped by.

"In the late 1940s Scott bought an old model T and painted offset white walls on it – It was driven down the football field at half time – The car would stall and had to be cranked to get it started.

"Various car parts were removed during the skit - Since the white walls were off center it looked like the wheels were going up and down as the car went down the field. For extra entertainment, he would remove the steering wheel while the car was moving. It provided some simple fun for the folks who came to the football game."

Dick Shover corrected a long standing error that he said has been repeated several times. It concerned the story in the March issue concerning Henry Shover. See Page 3

Comments, Corrections

Continued from Page 2

"Henry Shover of Loudoun County, VA did move to Union County, OH in the early 1800's, but he never lived in Jackson Township of Franklin County.

"He died in Union County in 1830, and is buried there. The Henry Shover who lived in Jackson Township was a grandson of the Revolutionary War veteran, and was a son of Valentine and Elizabeth Haughn Shover.

"Henry was born in 1825 in Union County and came with his parents to Franklin County in 1840. He married Caroline Miller, farmed on Borror Road, and had many children whose descendants are still in the area."

I Remember

Walking To Park Street

By Martha Ann Geyer

I remember walking to Park Street School (winters were very cold) from way down in the last block of West Park Street. We never had to worry about waiting for trains to pass but we always waved to Clyde M. Scott in the old train depot.

When we crossed Broadway we stomped on the metal coal bin doors at the side of Endres' Bar. I don't remember when those coal doors were removed.

We could name every family in every house as we walked down Park Street. I still will say to someone during conversation, oh, that's Mr. Kegg's house or that Otto Priwer ran his electric business from his home or that Rush and Opal bought that place on Park Street. They rented the house in back of Bette and Donovan Wade and so many other memories.

I also remember mushrooms were grown in the first building east of the railroad tracks on the north side of Park Street.

Do you have a story to share? Complete one of the "I Remember" forms at the museum or just write your story and mail it to 3378-B Park St., Grove City, OH 43123 or email it to grovecityhistory@gmail.com.

Civic Club Donates Tree

The Grove City Women's Civic Club donated a tree May 14 at Century Village in celebration of their 100th anniversary.

Sawmill, Brick, Tile Plant Were First Industries Operating In Township

It's widely believed a saw mill established in 1844 by Robert Seeds and brick and tile plants were the first forms of industry in Jackson Township.

Seeds constructed his first mill on Turkey Run but three years after it began operation it was destroyed by flood waters. He rebuilt the saw mill on Grant Run.

Since the township was a lowland with rich but moist land, drainage was important for pioneers who wanted to farm. This created a demand for tile. Brick was also a necessity for construction of new homes.

Xavias Buckholtz opened the township's first grist mill about two miles west of Grove City as early as 1840. In 1852, William F. Breck, the founder of Grove City, purchased Buckholtz's mill stones and steam powerplant and moved the entire operation to Grove City.

One of the early businesses in the township was wheel making and repair, operated by William C. Duff. Duff located in the township in 1806, a few years after the arrival of Hugh Grant Sr.

Borror's Corners was the business hub for the township before Grove City was established as a village. The first grocery store was established there by Absolom Borror about 1815. Borror's Corners is located today at the intersection of SR 104 and SR 665.

Before 1852, supplies required by the early settlers were hauled into the township on pack horses from Columbus, Zanesville and Chillicothe. At the time, the township, founded in 1815, had very few roads that would allow convenient travel.

These shipments were delivered to Borror's Corners where a store was operated. However, with the settling of Grove City supplies were more easily obtained.

It's hard to picture today, but Pleasant Corners was the second section of Jackson Township to have a commercial district. Two merchant stores operated there along with a blacksmith shop and a tile factory.

In 1885, a grain elevator was constructed to ship grain for the farmers located in the southwestern sector of the township. In 1912, a creamery opened.

William Foster Breck, Grove City Founder

William Foster Breck is a name few people recognize but he is the individual who was driven to create a new settlement in what many at the time referred to as the “backwoods township” in Franklin County.

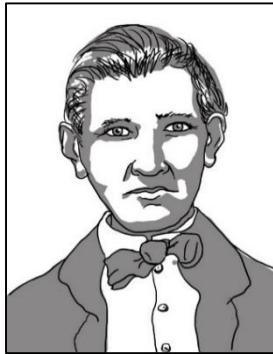
Breck was a successful, youthful businessman in Fairfield County when he met Elizabeth Campbell Smith. The couple married Jan. 1, 1840. Elizabeth’s father owned 600 acres in Jackson Township and the Worthington-Clintonville area that included the 15¼ acres where Breck created a plat for Grove City.

Sometime around 1846, Breck first scouted Jackson Township. At the time, there were no good roads and the only merchant in the township was located at Borrer’s Corners at what is today the intersection of SR 665 and SR 104. Breck felt he could do better, especially since a new turnpike was being considered between Columbus and Harrisburg.

In 1852, the new town was off to a good start and within a year, it boasted a population of about 50 residents.

Breck had one early obstacle in his way. Dutch Pike (now Grove City Road) ran in a straight line from what we know today as Grove City Road and Broadway to a county road (today known as Columbus Street) where St. John’s Lutheran Church now sits. Breck had to reroute the pike around the village proper in order to plat village lots.

With his retail experience, Breck was the first to open a business in Grove City. His sawmill provided lumber for new homes, his brick and tile factory provided building material and tile to drain wet lands, his general store made shopping for essentials more convenient



Sketch by
David Lane

and his grist mill provided a place to process grain.

In 1857, Breck petitioned for a post office, the first in Jackson Township, and he also was appointed the first postmaster.

By 1858, Grove City had 30 families, two general stores, a tavern, physician and several churches.

Breck, 59, didn’t live long enough to really see the fruits of his efforts. He died Aug. 19, 1864, in a tragic farming accident and is buried at Green Lawn Cemetery in Columbus



Mayor Ike Stage greets Society members at a Society members’ event showcasing the wood carvings of the late Jim O’Harra. Pictured from left are Bob Manby, Sue O’Harra, Sue’s sister Norma Manby and Mayor Stage. The carvings are on display until June 30.

106 Attend Open Houses At Museum In April

Thirty-eight Society members attended the Night at the Museum “members only” event April 8 and at least 68 others attended the public event April 12, according to Steve Jackson, president.

He said both events were very successful and that there is a possibility the Society might get a couple of new members from the public event.

O’Harra’s creations included caricature carvings that included a variety of animals and various room settings, a rocking horse and the ever popular children’s character, “Cat in the Hat.”

Jim O’Harra was seriously wounded in Vietnam and received a Purple Heart. He spent many years in a wheelchair and didn’t take up wood carving until years later while working in Columbus.

Welcome New Members

Lisa Napier-Garcia, Glen Garcia, Carole Cummings, Averil Olsen MacKenzie, Kenneth Bowers, Carolyn Beale Shotsky, Alexander Tadlock, Lauren Tadlock and Ginger Thrush.

Sesquicentennial Celebration

Heritage Event At Century Village In June

Grove City will celebrate its sesquicentennial as an incorporated village at Heritage Days at Century Village June 4-5. It was 150 years ago this year that the settlement of Grove City received village status that allowed local elections and self-government.

Grove City was founded in 1852 but it didn't become an incorporated village until 1866. Once Grove City reached a population of 5,000 residents it qualified for city status in 1958.

The first 500 families to attend the event on Saturday will receive a commemorative coin courtesy the City of Grove City.

Many hands-on activities are planned along with building tours, re-enactors and demonstrations.

Visitors are encouraged to visit the log cabins, the large Bob Evans barn and its collection of antique tools from Rio Grande and see the merchandise in the general store.

A special "class" will be held at the Orders School depicting how children learned in the mid-1800s.

Volunteers from the Gardens at Gantz will also provide instruction on how early settlers used herbs in their daily life for cooking, canning and fragrance.

The blacksmith shop will also be open for demonstrations in metal working techniques.

One of the highlights on Saturday will be a baseball game between the Ohio Village Muffins and the Century Village Greyhounds. The game will be played following 1860 rules. The game starts at 1 p.m.

Music will fill the air both days with the sounds of bluegrass bands. The Corey Hensley Band, the Nightflyer and Borderline will appear Saturday on stage from noon until 6 p.m.

Roaming musicians will also perform through the two day events.

An outdoor, non-demoninational church service is planned for 10 a.m. Sunday.

Food, drinks and crafts are available for

purchase at the two day event. Families can also bring a picnic lunch and eat on the grounds.



Oral Histories Available At Grove City Library

There are now 23 oral histories and transcripts available at the Grove City Library. The project is continually funded by the Grove City Historical Commission.

Most interviews are about 45 minutes and each has been transcribed into a written narriative.

Several transcripts are from old tape recordings archived by the library staff.

Transcripts of interviews include: Dr. Les Bostic, Marian Breckenridge Virginia Kunz Everett and Agnes Eyerman.

Also, Louie Eyerman, Virginia Ann Fleming, Otto Galle, Wilbur Gantz, Colonel Paul Grossman, Mayor George Haughn, Eva and Orville Koehler and Bill Lotz.

Other transcripts include Flossie Lotz, Anna Baer Mueller, Richard L. Neff, Carl Patzer, Captain Ray Ruoff, Betty Cain Seese, Jack Seese, Beryl Jean Shover/Spangler, Don Washburn and Paul White.

A transcript on the Corzilius House on Grant Avenue is also part of the collection. The house is located across from the new library.

SOCIETY MEETS ON THE FIRST TUESDAY.

Heritage Days

Century Village at
Fryer Park

Saturday, June 4

10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Sunday, June 5

10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Smart 911 Saves Lives

The Grove City Police Department has a program that can save lives in an emergency.

Grove City is one of a growing number of municipalities nationwide participating in this life saving effort.

By enrolling in the Smart 911 program, personal information such as medical conditions, medications and other critical data is available to emergency response crews. The emergency information is available nationwide anywhere the Smart 911 program is available.

Public Safety officials in Grove City are encouraging all residents to create a profile by going online at www.Smart911.com.

The service has been credited with saving lives and reducing emergency response times.

Charitable Giving From Retirement Now Possible

Recent legislation approved by Congress now makes it possible for individuals to make charitable giving from retirement assets with a tax-free option.

This is an excellent opportunity to provide continued support for the efforts of the Southwest Franklin County Historical Society.

Individuals 70½ years of age and older who are looking for the most tax efficient way to make a charitable gift now have three options.

The options include gifting directly from a traditional or Roth IRA that is completely free of federal income tax.

A second method is to make a yearly tax free gift from IRA withdrawals by having a portion transferred directly to a charity.

The final option is to use the required minimum distribution for a charitable gift and avoid taxes on the transfer of funds.

Individuals should consult a financial advisor for more information.

Another way of remembering the Society is to designate support in an individual will.

Any of these options help create a lasting legacy for individual support.

The Society is a 501c3 charitable organization recognized by the IRS.

Jim,



Museum, Village Tours Popular With Children

Hundreds of children have visited Century Village, the museum, and have experienced walking tours of the Town Center area, according to Beverly Babbert.

Student groups included 125 third graders from Darby Woods who completed a museum visit, a PowerPoint presentation and a walking tour and continued their experience with an afternoon visit to the village. Eight chaperones accompanied the group over the two days.

Second grade students from J. C. Sommer also visited over two days taking the walking tour, museum visit and the PowerPoint program. This included 100 students and eight adults.

Each group attending was asked to make a \$1 per person donation to the Society.

Would you like to be a
tour guide? Call Bev at
875-9787 or 614-774-
2530 or email
brbabbert@gmail.com

Later in the summer, a bus tour of senior adults from Cleveland will be visiting Grove City. This tour was coordinated through the Grove City Area Visitors and Convention Bureau.

A local home school group of about 100 children and adults and a childcare program with about 100 children from Delaware City Schools will also tour the village in July.

A group from Hilliard and one from J. C. Sommer recently canceled.

Get Involved In History!

The Society needs help in many areas and members are encouraged to get involved. Some of the areas needing help include:

- ✓ Century Village tour guides and volunteers for group visits at the museum. Call Bev, 614-875-2984.
- ✓ Membership recruitment, Call Janet Garza, 614-991-4712.
- ✓ Fund raising, grants, etc. Call Steve, 614-875-0081.
- ✓ Office management, filing, maintaining records, Call Jim, 614-875-9560.
- ✓ Century Village activities, Call Steve, 614-875-0081.

Baked Goods Yard Sale Items Are Needed

Mark your calendar for
Saturday, July 9

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Annual Bake Sale
Grove City Farmers Market
8 a.m. until Noon

Baked goods are needed for this fund raising event. We would appreciate bread, pies, cakes, cookies and any other pastry. Make sure you list all ingredients, especially sugar and any type of nuts. Drop off your donation at the market by 7:30 a.m. Saturday. The Society's space is across from Planks at Park and Broadway.

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Annual Yard Sale
Century Village, Bob Evans Barn
8 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Check the garage, attic or basement for any unwanted items that the Society can sell at this event. Last year, we collected almost \$1,000 and hopefully with good weather we will do even better this year. We will accept any donation but make sure that any electrical donation is in safe, working order. Please bring your donated items for the sale on Friday, July 1 between 9 a.m. – Noon at the Bob Evans Barn. NO clothing, exercise equipment or large pieces of furniture.

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Want your own yard sale space at Century Village? Call Steve Jackson, 871-0081.

2016 Calendar of Events

June 4	Heritage Celebration, 10 am-6 pm
June 5	Heritage Celebration, 11 am-3 pm
June 25	Century Village Open House, 2-4 pm
June 29	Historical Society Tour, Ohio Stadium
July 9	Bake Sale, Farmers Market
July 9	Yard Sale, Century Village
July 23	Century Village Open House, 2-4 pm
Sept. 24	Century Village Open House, 2-4 pm
Oct. 2	Old Time Harvest Day, 1-5 pm
Dec. 10	Christmas Tour, Open House at Century Village and Museum

Monthly Meetings

1 st Tuesday	Society Meeting, St. John's, 7:30 pm
2 nd Thursday	Commission, City Hall, 8:30 am
3 rd Monday	Events Committee, Museum, 7:30 pm
Last Tuesday	Museum Committee, Museum, 7:30

Southwest Pioneer

PUBLISHED MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER

Southwest Franklin County Historical Society

A 501C3 NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

3378-B Park St., Grove City, OH 43123

Steve Jackson, President

614-871-0081

Janet Garza, Membership Chair

614-991-4712

James F. Hale, Newsletter Editor

614-875-9560

grovecityhistory@gmail.com

Meetings held the first Tuesday each month

St. John's Lutheran Church, Grove City

2016 MEMBERSHIPS

Individual -- \$15 Business -- \$50 Life -- \$150

Newsletter by Email included with membership

If newsletter is mailed it is \$7 extra yearly

Ohio Stadium Tour June 29

Society Members will have an opportunity to tour the Ohio Stadium Wednesday, June 29. Members are instructed to meet at 9:30 a.m. at the rear parking lot at St. John's Lutheran Church to carpool to the Ohio State University. The tour will begin at 11 a.m. and the cost is \$10 per person. Individuals who have problems with steps can use the stadium elevators. The group will eat lunch at the Rusty Bucket at Lane Avenue Shopping Center after the tour is completed.

Historic Publications Sold At Heritage Days June 4-5

Several historical publications will be available for sale during the Heritage Celebration June 4-5 at Century Village. The books will also be available at the Grove City Visitors Center, 1600 Gateway Circle, off Marlane Drive.

The items include:

History of Jackson Township, Grove City and the Early Pioneers

By Harold Windsor

This history was first published in a series of articles in the Grove City Record in 1932. Windsor was a local historian, Grove City council member and journalist. The book is 91 pages. **Price \$15**

William Foster Breck Grove City's Founding Father

By James F. Hale

This is a new publication on the life of Grove City's founding father and the development of the village.

Price \$10

Epoch of the Park Street School 1853-1964

By Faye and Harold Morland

First published in 1964, this book has been redone but no changes were made to the content. The publication has maps and copies of old photographs. It also has a list of all high school graduates from 1896 through 1914. **Price \$10**

Reflections

*Written by Members of the Southwest Franklin
County Historical Society*

This 1986 publication is a collection of short stories about Grove City. Some of the stories are about the 1913 flood, Indian mounds (there were 25 in Jackson Township at one time), the food early settlers ate, use of herbs in the frontier, and the Gantz family story. **Price \$10**

Reflections II

*Written by Members of the Southwest Franklin
County Historical Society*

This publication is mostly about places and township histories. Readers will learn about many of the early families, Bean Corners, Little Pennsylvania, Old Salem Church, the Schock Farm House and stage coach stop, Borrer's Corners and memories of 1928. **Price \$10.**

The Adam Gantz Story

This 1986 booklet, written by Wilbur Gantz, tells the story of Adam Gantz who was born in 1805 in Washington County, PA. In 1817, Adam's father, Andrew (Goose) Gantz purchased 200 acres in Franklin County in what is now Jackson Township. This is a story of survival and pioneer life. **Price \$5**

Heritage Celebration



Century Village at
Fryer Park

Saturday, June 4

10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Sunday, June 5

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Join the sesquicentennial celebration of Grove City's incorporation as a village. The town was organized in 1852 and became a village in 1866.

Invite your friends and neighbors.



- ❖ Historical Displays
- ❖ Roving Musicians
- ❖ Vintage Baseball Game
- ❖ Life in the 1800s
- ❖ Bluegrass Concerts
- ❖ Folk Crafts
- ❖ Children's Activities
- ❖ 1850s Classroom